

# • C o u n t e r p o i s e •

## The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

May 2007

Number 5



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting:

May 10, 2007 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post  
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

# Memorial Day



May's Meeting  
Carl Gardenias, WU6D, Section  
Manager Orange County

## 2007 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

## 2007 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
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Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Social	KD6PRV	Anselmo Ruiz	574-0720

## 2007 Standing Committees

Bylaws	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	WA6L	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Health & Welfare	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Historian	OPEN		
Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	WA6PPG	Carl Ferree	328-2694
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
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Technical	W6RHV	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CO	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	W6CCM	Erich Bennett	401-7332
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445

## Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
AI6O	ED	Vice President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
W6CCM	Erich	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
KK6MS	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

### SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North  
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP  
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics  
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS  
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month  
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

## From The President

**Paul KC6QLS**



Can you believe it, Field Day is almost here? This year we tried something new, our own Field Day T-shirt contest. Members of the club have the opportunity to show off their art work and have it displayed on the ARCEC Field Day T-shirt. I hope we will make this a tradition for many years. Any money made will go into the general fund to help keep the club afloat.

Speaking about Float, start thinking about the upcoming Mother Goose Parade 2007. This will be our third year entering the parade. I think this endeavor is going well. Every year it's getting bigger and better. Last year we had two trucks and the float. We had more people our second year and I think everyone had fun too. What will this year be like? I think we have the float thing down to a science and the riders have the wave down. Let's focus this year on getting more members in the club to ride the float and how much fun it will be.

I really enjoy how this club has come together and put the fun back into Amateur Radio. I have members coming up to me everywhere and telling me how much fun they are having. This is what it is all about, fun, helping out each other, and even working some DX.

In closing this month, I would like to say, "Thanks" to all the members that make this club what it is, from the Elmer program to the Water District EOC and everything in between.

73,  
Paul Rios, KC6QLS  
President

<b>AI6O</b>	<b>FELTER FINANCIAL GROUP, INC</b> Financial and Estate Planning
	<b>Ed Felter, President</b>
	8080 La Mesa Blvd Suite #113 La Mesa CA 91941 Phone: (619) 668-0929 Fax: (619) 668-5666 E-mail: edfelter@pacbell.net

## Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting  
12 April 2007



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by club president Paul Rios, KC6QLS at 1900hrs. After the pledge of allegiance, visitors were welcomed.

EDUCATION report was also given by Mike, N6OPH. The extra theory course will begin in September.

SECRETARY's report as published in the *Counterpoise* was approved.

TREASURER Stogie KG6JCW read his report. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

Ed, AI6O introduced this evening's speaker. This evening's speaker is Chris Hinshaw, WB6WUJ and he will be speaking on RACES and emergency operations.

PRESIDENT Rios, KC6QLS gave his report. The winner of the silent auction is KI6HRH. It was moved and seconded that the ARCEC support Mike, N6OPH. Rich, N6NKJ will be the contact person for Del Mar Fair volunteers. The fair begins on 8 June 2007. The ARCEC will have the first weekend of the fair. Paul is attempting to secure the press attend our field day event and report on our activities. *Counterpoise* still needs signups for the "Spotlight."

Field day signups are being accepted. The cabins are all taken, but the dorms and the RV pads are still available. Set up will occur on Friday. Field day will occur on the weekend of 22-24 June at the Al Bahr Shrine camp. The contest for t-shirt logo for the ARCEC field day will end on the May meeting.

SANDARC report was given by Len K5WFW. There are two candidates for the office of chair; Mike, N6OPH and Tuck, NZ6T. The council has authorized the purchase of Quick Books software for the use of the treasurer. Also the council suggested that an audit be done on the SANDARC books. It was suggested that the cost be capped at \$1000. Mike, N6OPH will

attend the NCVEC conference in July.

MEMBERSHIP Ann, KC6TBG stated that there are 45 members in attendance. Two new members signed up this evening. The total paid membership is 249.

PUBLIC SERVICE chairman Rich, N6NKJ reported that there will be a bike ride on 12 May. He will need operators for this event. ARES will be responsible for the Greater Games of the Special Olympics in June at San Diego State College.

PRIZE chairman Carl, WAPPG reported on some of the gizmos and gadgets on the prize table. There being no further business before the general membership, the meeting was adjourned at 2105hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael P Maston, N6OPH  
Secretary  
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

### CERT Academe

May 12 & Sept. 8

To register, please call (619) 441-1615  
or visit [www.eastcountycert.org](http://www.eastcountycert.org)

### Field Day Cabins & Dorms

For information please call  
Ann KC6TBG at: (619) 593-9445

### Next Class will be in September

Extra Class is forming please call  
Gordon, AE6QW at 561-6323

Have some event to list?

Email [WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net](mailto:WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net)

## From The Vice President AI6O ED



"It's been just a little more than two months since the FCC dropped the requirement that Amateur Radio applicants pass a Morse code test to earn operating privileges below 30 MHz.

I was interested to check out some statistics on what has happened to license applications since the FCC dropped the CW requirement. Being a part of the Sandarc VEC (North Park), it seemed that I had been seeing increased numbers for exams for all classes of licenses.

Recently the the number of new Technician, General and Extra licensees before and after the FCC dropped the Morse code testing requirement were tabulated. Numbers show the FCC issued nearly 700 more Amateur Extra, 3625 more General and 454 more Technician licenses in March 2007 than in the same month last year.

Figures from ham radio statistician Joe Speroni, AH0A, indicate the total number of Amateur Extra licensees is up 1649 from March 2006 to March 2007, while the General population grew by 2668. The total number of Technician licensees dropped by 1632 during the same period, however — and it continues to drop going into April.

Figures also show that the grand total of Amateur Radio station licenses has declined by more than 12,800 over the past two years — to 655,048 at the end of March.

I am proud to be a part of great club that fosters new hams, provides "elmer" assistance, lots of net opportunities to learn communication skills, sponsors classes for new licensees, and and other opportunities for new hams and experienced hams alike.

Field Day planning is well underway and I welcome your personal involvement. We are planning for the biggest and best ever! Email me at [ai6o@arri.net](mailto:ai6o@arri.net) for info and to let me know of your involvement. For housing, camping, RVing, contact Ann Rios, Membership Secretary.

73 and Straight Ahead!

Ed, AI6O

### WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

### WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights  
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:  
8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

### New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Day: Thurs. "Except 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the month"

Mode: PSK31

Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

## Calendar of Events May 2007


May	1:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
May	3:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
May	5:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
May	5:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
May	10:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
May	10:	T-Shirt contest ENDS and Vote
May	17:	Counterpoise Dead Line
May	17:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
May	19:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
May	19:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
May	24:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
May	31:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz

### Upcoming Event Dates

June.	22-24:	Field Day 2007
July.	21:	ARCEC Annual Picnic
Oct.	??:	Fire Sation Open House
Nov.	18:	Mother Goose Parade



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San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: [www.wa6bgs.org](http://www.wa6bgs.org)

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file may be up to 1.5 mb at times.

## Change of Address

### Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call \_\_\_\_\_ WAMO# \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
New Address:  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Membership Chairperson:  
A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

### ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to  
Membership Chairperson  
A.R.C.E.C, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New ( ) or Renewal ( )	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ( )	Check No.
Check ( )	Date Paid:

### Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

# FUN PAGE

## Birthdays May

May 1	KG6KLM	Felly	Parel
May 2	KB6MLS	William	Fuller
May 3	KC6LEX	Andrea	Ames
May 7	NF6V	Steve	Rose
May 7	KG6IZW	Kristine	Eyer
May 7	KI6FCR	Dan	Hines
May 10	K7OY	Maynard	Skidmore
May 11	KE6HBQ	Greg	Richard
May 12	KB6WQO	Carol	Myrick
May 13		Zachary	Lang
May 13		Gabrial	Lang
May 14	KA6RLX	Al	Gentz
May 14	KD6KHQ	Linda	Kennedy
May 14	KD6ZNU	Shirley	Boehme
May 17	W6JPB	Joe	Wilkerson
May 19	WB6DSP	Dave	Johnson
May 20	K6FQR	Allen	Guinup
May 22	KG6STY	William	Kukuk
May 25	NV6E	Herald	Sawdy
May 25	WI6M	Rod	Adkins
May 30	K6CR	Cliff	Richardson
May 30	W6ULU	Bob	Peasley
May 30	KI6HRH	Ken	Cohen
May		Herbert	Mansfield

## Brain Thinkers

April 2007

1= S. C. in D. P.

1 Single Calorie in Diet Pepsi

3= L. P.

3 Little Pigs

4= S. in a Y.

4 Seasons in a Year

----- This Months -----

1= S. S. for M.

4= M. of the B.

5= G. L.

## Word Search " CLUB "

P A R T I C I P A T E K Z C S  
R N Q K W X G F V F X J E J G  
A T E A C H W E W J E H E W N  
C E L G E K F N Q J P H C T E  
T N M S N W Z W F V E W G R W  
I N E C H X S C Y H R Z S A F  
C A R W M V P E X C I T E I E  
E S K N I Z I J E X E K Y N T  
W G C Q S F R H B W N B O I A  
S K H R A D I O V K C R U N R  
F E R F I S T N S Z E E T G O  
N W E K S J G N E H W V H S B  
G Z D N U F Z Y X B F O W F A  
J V A J H C K G A T T E N D L  
Q C E Q T N S V K S G K Q S L  
V O L U N T E E R Q V A J F O  
F N E K E T A C I N U M M O C

☐ ANTENNA

☐ ATTEND

☐ COLLABORATE

☐ COMMUNICATE

☐ ELMER

☐ ENTHUSIASM

☐ EXCITE

☐ EXPERIENCE

☐ FUN

☐ LEADER

☐ MAKEOVER

☐ PARTICIPATE

☐ PRACTICE

☐ RADIO

☐ RENEW

☐ SPIRIT

☐ TEACH

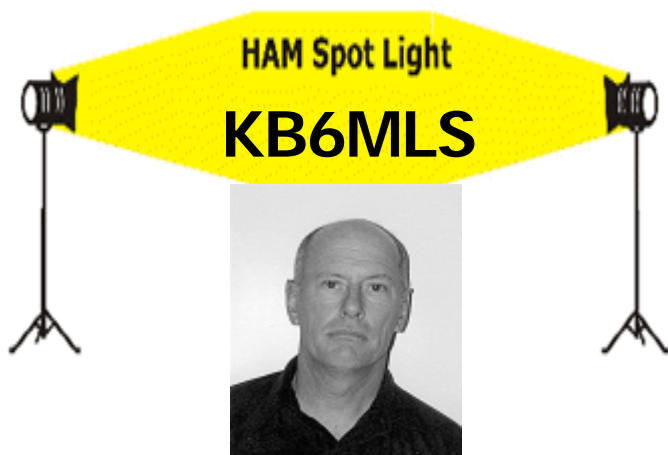
☐ TRAINING

☐ VOLUNTEER

☐ YOUTH

## Last Months Word Search

E N C O U R A G E M E N T W R H F  
V W R W Y G N I T P E C C A E E A  
I C G C B M W C E R E C N I S L  
T P N T P H O N E S T Y W S O P R  
A L I N M W R T Q W J W E U F N  
R B D E T E R M I N E N C P R U E  
E E N M W O J C W R I B E P C L S  
P L A T B C L B M H Q Y I O E W S  
O B S I R B Y E T J C R B R F S B  
O A S M A Q M R R L T X M U U R W  
C N R M Y L O Q M A W C U L R C  
B O E O E W P L Y B N X H V W V M  
W S D C T M B W Y R P C J E Q I G  
T A N S G R A C I O U S E L T C N  
S E U L B A L A N C E D Q L S E I  
E R E S P O N S I B L E T Y L P V  
T M W E V I T A I C E R P P A R I  
C O U R A G E O U S B M Y S T U G



This month the spotlight shines on Bill Fuller, KB6MLS, WAMO #634. A native to Syracuse, New York from the age of 3 months old. He joined the Navy in 1968. Bill later moved to San Diego and became a member of the El Cajon Club. He has been a member for 20 years. He has an Extra license and has a liking to 2 meters.

Bill served in the United States Navy as EN3 for a total of four years beginning in 1968 and ending in 1972. He spent his navy years on an "almost pleasure cruise," traveling through places such as Puerto Rico, Mexico, Australia, Hawaii and Guam. He was home ported in Charleston, South Carolina. While he was in Guam, Bill remembers that there was a Ham Shack next to the pier where Hams would run phone patch traffic to the mainland. If there was a contact good enough, some of the guys could work South Carolina and talk to their girlfriends for half an hour for free. He says, "You had to work hard before satellites and cell phones!"

Today Bill is employed at the Teaching Resource Center in Chula Vista where he works in the warehouse. As a Ham he has volunteered his time at the Special Olympics and the Mother Goose Parade for a number of years. Bill has also participated in Field Day with the El Cajon Club. Bill believes that there is more than just talking to people on the radio when it comes to Amateur Radio. For Bill, amateur radio is more than a pastime, but a service that provides an opportunity to learn and grow. He says, "It's set up to be a communication service. It is a constantly changing service. Learning

about amateur radio can be a challenge and can help students to better understand other subjects such as geography and math."

No longer just a voice on the radio, the spotlight shines on KB6MLS.

73!

KI6FIH Tassy



## MAZE



## Jokes "Fishy"

Where is the best place to see a man-eating fish?

Answer is... A Seafood Restaurant

Lisie KI6EEK

**The Editor's  
Corner  
KC6QLS Paul**



**Editor's Corner**

You might have noticed from time to time some small changes in the club's newsletter. I try to keep things fresh and easy to read. Some things have worked and some have not. I do read your emails, and they have given me some good feedback on what you like to see in the Counterpoise. I got one last month thanking me for bringing back the Chicken Noodle Soup for the Amateur Radio Sole. They thought I ended it for the new column Down Under. After calling them I told them the two columns will alternate each month. They told me they were happy to hear that. They liked both columns and each one was a good read.

"Down Below is a good read! Hope he keeps writing it," said another email.

Pat's Crest Museum has its fans too. Members like reading and seeing the older rigs. They can't believe that Pat can turn a \$10 eBay buy into a working showroom piece that's worth over \$100's of dollars.

The Spotlight is something else. I would say 98% of the members that have been Spotlitged have enjoyed it and had a positive experience. It's a good piece and members like to read about the person that is sitting next to them at the meeting. Let me share one email I got about the Spotlight. One member has been going to the meeting for years and really only knew about 4 or 5 other members. After their Spotlight was read, other members came over and said I didn't know that you did this and that. They also had common friends outside the club.

Tassy, K16FIH is going to go to college this year, but said she will continue to write the Spotlight column. She has enjoyed writing the column and looks forward to writing it each month.

**Public Relations**

The Convention is coming up in Torrance in September. If you have not gotten your tickets, please go to [www.hamcon.org](http://www.hamcon.org) and sign up. Anyone up to a convoy to Torrance? That could be fun to do.

Rick, N6NKJ is working on keeping us all informed on events that are coming up and where you can help or volunteer. Volunteers are needed all the time and even on the same day of other events. We put out the list of events and you choose where and when. Pick the one that best fits your schedule and you would like to help out with.

Continued page 13

# Volunteers Needed

## Up Coming Events

Del Mar Fair, Field Day, FS #6 Open house  
Please Sign up at the next meeting

## E-Mail

Address for the Counterpose. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:

**WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net**

## Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. To Help, contact WA6PPG Carl Ferree at 328-2694 e-mail at [cferree@IEEE.ORG](mailto:cferree@IEEE.ORG)

## Things to keep in mind

*Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector*

*To sign up visit:*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

## Quote of the Month

""What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others."

-- Confucius, 15:23



Plaza Las Palmas Center  
1255 Avocado Ave. Suite 103,  
El Cajon, CA 92020 (619) 440-4031



# Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



Here is something QUITE different!

## The DREAM

Last week, I had an opportunity to go to the other side of the world (well, to Indiana, that seems like it!) on company business for a week. The clowns had designed a system of microwave transmitters and receivers spread out over a building the size of Parkway Plaza, and with all the ducts and pipes, wondered why it didn't work. OF COURSE, it didn't work, but that is getting off the story. Some people just don't know how Radio works! One night before leaving, I had a dream. It was like a premonition, someone telling me I needed to search for something. So, when the job was finished (as much as I could do with a completely hopeless situation!) I had a day off to ride around the Indianapolis area. Gas is cheap there (\$2.69/gallon as compared to \$3.33 here!) and houses are even cheaper. I saw 3BR brand new houses going for \$140 grand. And 700 acre fully operating farms for what a 1BR bungalow in high crime town would cost here!!

But they have Tornados there that regularly mow down whatever Man dares to put up. I will take an EARTHQUAKE over a Tornado any day!!! I remembered this dream, and began to drive. Where? The only factor was out of town. WAY WAY out of town. I headed generally West, taking the most miniscule roads I could find. The roads deteriorated down to Gravel roads, but HEY, it was a Rental Car, who cares?? Glad it wasn't my Town car there! At 30+ MPG, I just drove and drove, watching the sites and looking for something, something I saw in the dream.

In the dream, I had pulled up to an abandoned farm house, miles and miles from any other civilization. What lured me there was the site of the remains of a Tri-band antenna on the roof. It was missing some of the elements, and the mast was bent over, but it told me that once, a HAM had lived there. The road was just 2 ruts carved out of the field by a truck many decades ago. It was tough to get close as the weeds had covered the entrance. As I walked up, I could see the windows all broken out and door torn off, but I entered anyway. Furniture was scattered around, and the place was trashed. But into the back bedroom I ventured, always fearful I would fall through the floor into the spider filled basement. There, in a corner, was a table, empty, but with coaxes going to it. There had been a HAM station at one time there!! Rats! I was too late, the vandals had nabbed all the equipment. As I started to leave, I spied an obscure door that led to the cellar. JUST in case, I peered down the entrance.

It was very dark and damp. I could almost hear the spiders running around down there. But, using my flashlight, I could almost make out something on a shelf down there.

WHAT could it be?? I propped to door open and carefully stepped down inside, looking around to be sure I wouldn't walk into a spider web. The light began to show something that looked like equipment. This was the first this cellar had seen any light in probably 50 years!!!

There, on the shelf, was a Heathkit DX-100B, covered in dust and lint, but it looked intact. I gingerly stepped down the remaining stairs to grab it. You don't GRAB a DX-100B, you LUG it!!! As I woefully eased up the stairs, I felt the stairway give way to the rotten wood. The DX-100B weighed well over 100 lbs!! It landed on a good piece of stairs a few feet from the doorway, but I was on the floor now, under the stairs. I searched for the flashlight, and found it, in a pile of wood debris. Shining it around the room, I could see all kinds of boxes, Military boxes. There was an HRO-50, and a Johnson Adventurer!!! A Gonset Goony box and a, most exciting, a Collins KW-1!!!!

The military boxes held brand new ARC-5s, and BC-348Qs, just the way they were in 1945! Spiders were everywhere, but so was more equipment. Holy Mackerel!!! A completely virgin Spark Gap transmitter from the 20s!!!! HOW could I rescue all this and take it home????

RING RING RING!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Darned alarm clock!! Have to go to work. My eyes were in tears to find out it was only a dream. And so, when I had the time in Indy, I drove. Miles and miles, in no particular direction, up and down Indiana farm lanes and into quaint forests over covered bridges. But I could not find my farmhouse!!! IT was was there, SOMEWHERE!!! I could just FEEL IT!!!!

The sun began to sink lower in the horizon and I was many miles from the Hotel. Good thing I had a map!!! I turned back towards Indy and called it a day. As I neared US 40, I SAW IT!!!! Yes, it HAD to be it!!! A farmhouse, miles from anywhere, but no beam. I had to check.

Pulling up in the yard, there were old tires and washing machines tossed about. I looked for a Philco Cathedral but didn't see one. But this house was the right vintage. As I entered the doorway, I realized I was TOO LATE!!! Vandals had torched the place. The roof was open in most places where the flames had eaten into it, and everything inside was gutted and gone. I looked for the doorway to the basement, but it was too dangerous to tread inside. The floor had been burnt away. The sun began to go behind the trees, and darkness was near. And I had NO flashlight with me today. Reluctantly, I left, mentally memorizing the spot. Maybe I will pass through again someday, just maybe. Or maybe I will find another Farmhouse not torched!! Somewhere out there, that farmhouse full of Radio treasure is there, just for the finding. SOMEWHERE!!! But who will find it first? Pat WA6MHZ

# DOWN BELOW IN EL CAJON

## LIFE BELOW 50 MHz

### The Digital Modes Are Going To Hell

The fact that more and more Hams are using the digital modes on HF is not news to anyone. RTTY has been around for a long time, and the advent of PSK (BPSK31) has created a resurgence of digital activity.

PSK is a magical mode. It uses only a tiny bit of bandwidth, and allows worldwide contacts with 50 watts of power or less. It is amazing to me how you can pick a PSK signal out of the noise and get excellent copy when nothing else seems to be open.

All you need to get on PSK is a computer with a sound card, some free software, and a computer interface to the radio. There are many plans available on the Internet for home-brewing your own interface, or you can purchase a very nice one for under \$100. We have quite a few ARCEC members who can help you get on the air, and a PSK net on Thursday nights. Send out a message on the email reflector if you need help and I am sure you will; be deluged with responses.

Now, on to the title of this article . . .

There is another digital mode that is gaining popularity on the HF bands. The long name for it is Feld-Hellshreiber, and it is often referred to as Feld-Hell or just Hell for short. It is an interesting mode, and I predict that it is going to see a big jump in popularity for reasons I will cover a little later.

This technology was invented by Dr. Rudolf Hell (really!) in Germany in 1929. The technical specifications are brilliant and make an interesting read if you have the time. Basically, to use this mode, you send a series of dots, where a dot is a black pixel and no dot is a white (blank) pixel. The receiver places these pixels into a matrix, and the characters appear on your screen much like a fax machine.

Just like PSK, it is easy to pick out a weak Feld-Hell signal. Unlike PSK, you are receiving an image of a character and not the character itself. So you can do a lot to increase the visibility or "sharpness" of the characters by varying audio levels, adjusting filters, or even changing the font that is being transmitted to make it more readable. It is a lot of fun!

Feld-Hell does use more bandwidth than PSK, but less than RTTY. The tradeoff for the additional bandwidth is speed, and Feld-Hell is faster than the very slow PSK; transmitting at about 122 Baud. The setup you need to use Feld-Hell is identical to the one you would use for PSK. The only change is the software.

Why do I think that this mode is going to become more popular? Well, remember that I said that the transmission is a series of dots. Feld-Hell can use an interrupted carrier to send these dots or it can use audio to simulate this interrupted carrier. This is also called interrupted continuous wave, or CW for short. In other words, this mode can be used any place that CW can be used. In fact, when you listen to Feld-Hell on the air, it sounds much like Morse Code being sent at about 120 WPM.

So with the advent of the no-code license, I think you may see a lot of people moving into the CW portions of the band using digital modes. And I think Feld-Hell will be at the forefront of this movement.

If you would like to learn more about this unique and interesting mode, there is a plethora of information available at the Feld-Hell Club web site. The address is <http://www.feldhellclub.org> While you are there, why not join the club? It's absolutely free and has a number of benefits, awards, and contests.

I hope to see more of you on Hell (in Hell?) in the future. If you would like some help or would like a sked, please let me know.

73,

John, WA6L

## From The Youth's Perspective

As one of the members of the club, I get the opportunity to do the activities that help out Amateur Radio operators and my community. I am one of the younger members but I have already participated in two Field Days and two Mother Goose Parades. During Field Day 2006, I made about 11 contacts and I assisted in the kitchen by cooking carne asada. This year I am planning on making several more contacts to other Amateurs Radio Operators throughout the event.

I have also been a hostess in the 2007 Southwestern Division Convention. During the convention, I passed out tickets and did the drawings for each seminar. I have recently become an ARRL member. I am looking forward to participating in other ARRL events. I am looking forward to attending this years Field Day.

I have also attended the club annual picnic and am looking forward to this years as well. Last year I participated in the T-hunt. I was hot on the trail but in the end it was just right under my nose.

Through the club I have met several new people. Some people I have met as technician are now generals or extras. I myself am still a tech. With my license I talk both locally and long distance (field day) to my family and friends. Amateur Radio has caused me to meet new and exciting people and I am looking forward to many more years to come.

73, Lisie, KI6EEK

## Testing and Club Attire

### VEC Testing Sites

1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 <sup>th</sup> or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

### Club Attire

Shirts on hand. Call for Sizes

Get your jackets, hats and t-shirts. Show off your club colors and let all know that the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon is strong and growing.  
Contact:

K6PKS Paul Schmidt (619) 733-2284

### Place Ad Here



## Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello all,

I Would just like to say, a Convention is coming up in the Month of September. Also, our Field Day is just right around the corner.

73'S,

Rich, N6NKJ

### 2007 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention

Place: Torrance Marriott Hotel,  
3635 Fashion Way, Torrance, CA  
90503-4809

Dates: September 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>

Website: [www.hamcon.org](http://www.hamcon.org)



## Welcome New Members

### New Members



Bill Shaw, KI6IAR WAMO # 1733



Martin Muschinske, KI6HSA WAMO # 1734

Don Dodson, KI6GZK WAMO # 1735

Thank you to all members who have renewed. Please check the mailing label on your Counterpoise. If your membership has expired, please take a moment to complete and return the Renewal Application located within this Counterpoise.

73 Ann, KC6TBG

### Field Day Accommodations Still Available:

Old Cabin: #3	\$22.00 per night
Dorm #1:	
Rooms #3 and #4	\$20.00 per night
Dorm #2:	
Rooms #1, #2, #3 and #4	\$20.00 per night
RV Slab: Space #3	\$17.00 per night
RV Spots: 7 left	\$17.00 per night

Please contact Ann at [kc6tbg@cox.net](mailto:kc6tbg@cox.net) to sign up for field day overnight accommodations. Payment due to Fran upon your arrival at Field Day.



## April Meeting Photos



## Odds & Ends

### Public Relations Continued

Just Public Relations in general, the new ARPRSD.org website is moving slowly but is on the path to being one of many tools used to help new hams find their way in Amateur Radio. To all Presidents of clubs, there is a page set up to help find speakers for your meetings. As more and more clubs come on line, it will be getting better. A page is even set up for Classes and where to get your licenses. Please visit the site and send me back your feed back and information to put on your respective club pages.

Paul Rios KC6QLS



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El Cajon, CA 92022



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### Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2006? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.



Amateur Radio ... A National Resource